

REMARKS

By this paper, independent claims 1, 25, 37 and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-40 remain pending.

In the Office action dated September 26, 2003, claims 25-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Applicants have amended claims 25-40 to address the issues raised by the Examiner. As such, it is believed that the § 112 rejections have been traversed.

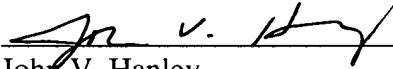
Additionally, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that each of the set of attaching mechanisms are sutured to the bifurcated graft to clearly distinguish claims 1-24 from the cited Piplani et al. reference. Additionally, claims 25-40 have been amended to require release wires in direct engagement with portions of a graft. As such, it is believed that each of claims 25-40 are distinguishable from the cited Quiachon et al. reference. Therefore, it is believed that each of the pending claims now define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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